

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: BELGIAN DRAFT ON ALLIED CONSULTATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR
NEGOTIATIONS

REFS: A) BRUSSELS 3893 B) STATE 134964 C) USNATO 3133

SUMMARY: BELGIAN COUNSELOR WILLOT GAVE SUBJECT DRAFT
(TRANSLATION FROM FRENCH IN SEPTEL) TO USNATO OFFICERS ON JULY
12, EXPLAINING THAT TEXT HAD NOW BEEN APPROVED BY FONMIN
VAN ELSLANDE; THAT CONSULTATIONS ABOUT PAPER WITH OTHER
BENELUX REPS WOULD BE HELD LATER ON JULY 12; AND THAT PAPER WOULD BE
CIRCULATED FORMALLY TO PERMREPS BY AMB. DE STAERCKE ON JULY 13.
MISOFF WELCOMED POINTS ON WHICH WILLOT'S EARLIER OUTLINE IN
REF C HAD BEEN MODIFIED, IN PARTICULAR POSITIVE IF CAREFULLY
CIRCUMSCRIBED REFERENCE TO USE IN NEGOTIATIONS OF EMISSARIES,
AND SUGGESTED FURTHER REVISIONS ALONG LINES OF INSTRUCTIONS IN
REF B. WILLOT SAID BELGIANS COULD PROBABLY ACCEPT HAVING RIGHT OF
ANY FOUR PARTICIPANTS TO CONVENE PLENARY STATED AS AN INTERNAL
ALLIED UNDERSTANDING. END SUMMARY.

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1. FOLLOWING UP ON REF A, USNATO OFFICERS ASKED BELGIAN COUNSELOR
WILLOT FOR OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK AT COPY OF BELGIAN PAPER ON
ALLIED CONSULTATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR MBFR NEGOTIATIONS PRIOR
TO CIRCULATION OF TEXT IN NATO. WILLOT HAD BEEN INFORMED ABOUT

AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE'S CONVERSATION WITH DAVIGNON, AND OFFERED TO SHOW MISOFFS COPY OF PAPER IMMEDIATELY, ALONG WITH COMPANION PAPER (SEE SEPTEL) ON SCOPE AND METHOD OF REDUCTIONS BOTH OF WHICH AMB. DE STAERCKE PLANNED TO CIRCULATE TO PERMEPS ON JULY 13. WILLOT SAID CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER BENELUX REPS ON TEXTS WOULD BE HELD LATER IN DAY ON JULY 12, BUT DID NOT VOLUNTEER WHETHER BELGIAN CONTEMPLATE ANY MODIFICATIONS AS A RESULT OF EITHER U.S. OR BENELUX COMMENTS. HE DID STATE THAT FONMIN VAN ELSLANDE HAD PERSONALLY APPROVED PAPER ON CONSULTATIONS AND PROCEDURES.

2. MISOFF DREW ON PARAS 1-3 REF B TO SAY THAT U.S. RECOGNIZES NEED OF INDIVIDUAL ALLIES FOR MAXIMUM VISIBLE PARTICIPATION IN NEGOTIATIONS, BUT BELIEVES THIS MUST BE BALANCED WITH NEED FOR MOST EFFECTIVE NEGOTIATING MODALITIES, SO THAT NO POTENTIAL NEGOTIATING METHODS SHOULD BE RULED OUT, INCLUDING MEANS OF INFORMAL TESTING OF EASTERN REACTIONS TO NEW ALLIED PROPOSALS PRIOR TO INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSALS IN PLENARIES. WILLOT SAID BELGIAN HAD REFLECTED SINCE PREVIOUS INTERVIEW (REF C), ON POINTS MADE BY U.S. REPS ABOUT USE OF EMISSARY SYSTEM, AND HAD DECIDED TO ADD POSITIVE PARA TO PAPER ABOUT SYSTEM. MISOFFS WELCOMED THIS DECISION.

3. ALTHOUGH TIME AVAILABLE WITH WILLOT PRECLUDED DETAILED REVIEW OF TEXT OF BELGIAN PAPER, MISOFFS MADE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL U.S. POINTS WITH RESPECT TO SPECIFIC PARAS OF BELGIAN PROCEDURES PAPER:

A. PARA 3: FOR CASES OF DISAGREEMENT IN AD HOC GROUP ON IMPLEMENTATION OF NEGOTIATING POLICY AGREED BY COUNCIL, OR ON OTHER PROCEDURAL QUESTION, MISOFF DREW ON PARA 8 OF REF B TO SUGGEST ADDITIONAL GUIDELINE THAT BOTH AHG AND NAC SHOULD ATTEMPT TO ACT RAPIDLY, SO AS TO AVOID POTENTIALLY DAMAGING INTERRUPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS OVER NON-SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE. MISOFF MENTIONED ILLUSTRATIVE TIME LIMIT OF ONE WEEK. WILLOT SAID SUCH AN ADDITION SEEMED REASONABLE.

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B) PARA 4: MISOFF SAID U.S. PREFERS ON BASIS OF SATISFACTORY EXPERIENCE IN VIENNA TO CONTINUE ROTATIONAL CHAIRMANSHIP OF AHG BY NATIONAL REPS. WE ADDED THAT WE HAD NO SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ON THE ALTERNATIVE IDEA OF HAVING THE HAD OF ONE NATIONAL DELEGATION SERVE AS PERMANENT CHAIRMAN, BUT ASSUMED SAME CONSIDERATIONS WOULD APPLY. WILLOT REITERATED REASONS IN REF C FOR HAVING A PERMANENT CHAIRMAN, AND WE DID NOT PURSUE QUESTION.

PARA 5 (B): MISOFF NOTED THAT THIS PARA DID NOT APPEAR TO CONTAIN PROVISION FOR CLOSED WORKING GROUPS, SUCH AS TRANSLATION GROUPS, WHICH HE HAD SAID EARLIER (REF C) WERE NOT TO BE RULED OUT. WILLOT EXPLAINED THAT BELGIAN PAPER DID NOT FORECLOSE USE OF SMALL WORKING GROUPS. WHEN TIME CAME FOR FORMATION OF WORKING GROUPS, MATTER WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN AHG, AND NATIONAL REPS WHO HAD NO

NEED TO PARTICIPATE WOULD MAKE THIS KNOWN AT THE OUTSET. IMPORTANT POINT WAS TO PRESERVE PRINCIPLE THAT WORKING GROUPS WERE TO BE OPEN TO ALL WHO CHOSE TO PARTICIPATE.

PARA 5 (C): SINCE INSERTION OF THIS PARA WAS IN RESPONSE TO U.S. SUGGESTION, WE REFRAINED FOR THE TIME BEING FROM ANY FURTHER EDITORIAL SUGGESTIONS (SUCH AS SUPPRESSION OF UNNECESSARY WORD "UNANIMOUSLY"). COMMENT: WE DOUBT THAT OTHER ALLIES WILL BE PARTICULARLY HAPPY ABOUT WORD "UNANIMOUSLY" IN THIS CONTEXT, SINCE ALL AHG DECISIONS ARE ASSUMED TO BE BASED ON CONSENSUS, AND WE WILL LET OTHERS TAKE LEAD IF THIS WORD REMAINS WHEN PAPER IS TABLED TOMORROW. END COMMENT.

PARA 5(D): FOR REASONS GIVEN IN PARA 6 OF REF B, MISOFF SUGGESTED THAT THIS PARA BE COUCHED AS AN INTERNAL ALLIED UNDER-STANDING RATHER THAN AS FORMAL PROPOSAL FOR NEW PROCEDURAL RULES TO BE MADE TO OTHER SIDE. WILLOT ASKED IF THIS WOULD MEAN THAT IF ANY FOUR ALLIED FLANK REPS IN AHG WERE TO FAVOR CALLING FOR PLENARY, ONE OR MORE OF ALLIED DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE OBLIGED TO ACT ON THEIR BEHALF. MISOFF REPLIED THAT IT WOULD, ACCORDING TO HIS UNDER-STANDING OF INSTRUCTIONS. WILLOT SAID HE THOUGHT BELGIANS WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCEPT THIS SUGGESTION, AND THAT IN HIS VIEW ALLIED FLANK COUNTRIES MIGHT ALSO BE SATISFIED WITH IT.

4. WE WILL CONTINUE TO RELY ON INSTRUCTIONS IN REF B IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER DELS FOLLOWING TABLING OF BELGIAN PAPER ON JULY 13. WE WILL ALSO DISCOURAGE FORMAL DISCUSSION OF THIS BELGIAN
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PAPER IF WE CAN PROMISE ALTERNATIVE FOCUS FOR MBFR DISCUSSION IN FORM OF MORE IMPORTANT U.S. PAPER ON SUBSTANCE OF NEGOTIATING PROGRAM IN NEAR FUTURE. AT SUCH TIME AS BELGIAN PAPER IS SCHEDULED FOR NAC REVIEW, WE WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS ON ACTUAL TEXT. WE WILL FORWARD BY CABLE ANY CHANGES IN TEXT AS RESULT OF U.S. OR BENELUX COMMENTS AFTER PAPER IS CIRCULATED JULY 13.

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